

**IN THE CLAIMS**

1. (canceled)

2. (currently amended) The collar protector in claim ~~1~~4, wherein the attachment assembly includes an inwardly extending cutaway section with a wide outer end and a restricted inner end.

3. (currently amended) The collar protector in claim ~~1~~4, wherein said body is constructed of polymer material.

4. (currently amended) A collar protector for the collar on a garment wherein said collar has, an inner face, an outer face and a collar button, comprising, a body made of a resilient material, said body having a relatively wide center section, said center section having an attachment assembly ~~formed therein for releasable engagement with which is releasably affixed to~~ the collar button, relatively wide and spaced side sections having an inner end and an outer end each respectively connected at an the inner end to the center section and disposed to extend in opposite directions from the center section to form so that each respective outer end forms a free end, each of the respective side sections having a resilient holding member in the medial section of the associated one of the side sections, each resilient holding member is an elongated strip having a strip inner end and a strip outer end formed from and connected at its strip inner end with and extending in the same direction from the inner-connected inner end of its associated one of the said side sections, and the strip outer end of each said elongated strip having holding member forming a free end remote from its said connected strip inner end to enable the respective side sections to extend in opposite directions so the outer end of the respective side sections is in engagement with the inner face of the collar and to enable each respective holding member disposed in assembled position on to extend to opposite sides of

the center section to engage the outer face of the collar on the said garment and to hold and protect the collar.

5. (previously presented) The collar protector in claim 4, wherein each elongated strip of each resilient holding member has a convoluted shape.

6. (original) The collar protector in claim 5, wherein the convoluted shape is S-shaped.

7. (withdrawn) The collar protector in claim 1, wherein the side sections lie in a first plane and the holding members lie in a second plane spaced from the first plane.

8. (currently amended) The collar protector in claim ~~1~~ or ~~4~~, wherein said body has an arcuate shape in the lengthwise direction of the collar protector.

9. (currently amended) The collar protector in claim ~~1~~ or ~~4~~, wherein said body has an arcuate shape in the lengthwise direction of the collar protector and an arcuate shape transverse to the lengthwise direction of the collar protector.

10. (currently amended) The collar protector in claim ~~1~~ or ~~4~~, wherein the body is constructed of plastic material having a three dimensional shape.

11. (withdrawn) The collar protector in claim 1 or 4, wherein the attachment assembly comprises, a depression in the center section.

12. (currently amended) The collar protector in claim ~~1~~ 4, wherein the side sections lie in a first plane and the holding members have portions lying in planes extending above and below said first plane.

13. (original) The collar protector in claim 12, wherein said body is constructed of plastic material, said body having an arcuate shape and said holding members having an S-shape.

14. (canceled)

15. (withdrawn) The collar protector in claim 14, wherein each resilient holding member includes, an elongated strip

formed from its associated side section, and each said elongated strip connected at one end near the center section to which its associated side section is connected, wherein the center section and the side sections lie in a first plane and the elongated strips lie in a second plane spaced from the first plane.

16. (withdrawn) A collar protector in claim 15, wherein the elongated strip of each resilient holding member has a convoluted shape.

17. (canceled)

18. (canceled)

19. (canceled)

20. (canceled)

21. (canceled)

22. (canceled)

23. (currently amended) The combination with a garment having, a collar with an inner face, an outer face and provided with a collar button of a collar protector comprising, a body made of a resilient material, said body having a relatively wide center section, and spaced side sections each respectively connected at an inner end to the center section and disposed to extend in opposite directions from the center section, said center section having an attachment assembly formed therein for releasable engagement with which is affixed to the collar button, relatively wide and spaced side sections having an inner end and an outer end, and each of the respective side sections connected at the inner end to the center section and disposed to extend in opposite directions from the center section so that each respective outer end forms a free end, each of the side sections having a resilient holding member in the medial section of the associated one of the side sections, each holding member is an elongated strip having a strip inner end and a strip outer end formed from, and connected at its same strip inner end with

and extending in the same direction from said ~~inner~~ connected inner end of its associated one of the said side sections, to dispose in assembled position the free end of each respective holding member for operative association with the outer face of the collar on said garment to hold the collar in position. and the strip outer end of each said holding member forming a free end remote from the said connected strip inner end to enable the respective side sections to extend in opposite directions so the outer end of the respective side sections is in engagement with the inner face of the collar and to enable each respective holding member in assembled position to extend to opposite sides of the center section to engage the outer face of the collar on the said garment and to hold and protect the collar.

24. (original) The combination in claim 23, wherein the attachment assembly includes an inwardly extending cutaway section with a wide outer end and a restricted inner end.

25. (original) The combination in claim 23, wherein said body is constructed of polymer material.

26. (canceled)

27. (currently amended) The combination in claim ~~26~~23, wherein the elongated strip of each resilient holding member has a convoluted shape.

28. (original) The combination in claim 27, wherein the convoluted shape is S-shaped.

29. (withdrawn) The combination in claim 23, wherein the side sections lie in a first plane and the holding members lie in a second plane spaced from the first plane.

30. (original) The combination as in claim 23, wherein said body has an arcuate shape in the lengthwise direction of the collar protector.

31. (original) The combination in claim 23, wherein said body has an arcuate shape in the lengthwise direction of the

collar protector and an arcuate shape transverse to the lengthwise direction of the collar protector.

32. (original) The combination in claim 23, wherein the body is constructed of plastic material having a three dimensional shape.

33. (withdrawn) The combination in claim 23, wherein the attachment assembly comprises a depression in the center section.

34. (currently amended) The combination in claim 23, wherein the side sections lie in a first plane and each respective holding member has portions lying in planes extending above and below said first plane.

35. (currently amended) The combination in claim 34, wherein said body is constructed of plastic material, said body having an arcuate shape and said holding members having an S-shape.

36. (withdrawn) A three dimensional collar protector constructed from plastic material comprising a generally unitary body made of polymer material having an arcuate shape in lengthwise direction thereof, said body disposed in a first curved plane; said body having a center section and spaced side sections each respectively connected at one end to the center section and disposed to extend in opposite directions from the center section; and each of the side sections having a holding member disposed in a second curved plane spaced from said first curved plane, said holding members arranged for operative association with the collar on a garment to hold the collar in position.

37. (withdrawn) The collar protector in claim 36, wherein each resilient holding member comprises an elongated strip formed from its associated side section; said elongated strip connected at one end to its associated side section and having a

free end remote from said connected end disposed to engage the outer face of the collar on the garment.

38. (withdrawn) The collar protector in claim 37, wherein the elongated strip of each resilient holding member has a convoluted shape.

39. (withdrawn) The collar protector in claim 38, wherein the convoluted shape is S-shaped.

40. (withdrawn) The collar protector in claim 36, wherein portions of said holding members lie above and below said first plane.

41. (withdrawn) The collar protector in claim 40, wherein said holding members are S-shaped.

42. (withdrawn) The combination of a collar protector and a garment having a collar, the combination comprising a collar protector as set forth in claim 36 attached to the collar of a garment.

43. (currently amended) A three dimensional collar protector for the collar on a garment having a collar button and wherein the said collar has an inner face and an outer face, comprising, a generally unitary body made of polymer material; said body having, a relatively wide center section and spaced side sections each respectively connected at an inner end to the center section and disposed to extend in opposite directions from the center section, said center section having an attachment assembly which is affixed to the collar button, relatively wide and spaced side sections having an inner end and an outer end and each of said respective side sections connected at the inner end to the center section and disposed to extend in opposite directions from the center section so that the respective outer end forms a free end, said center section and a first portion of each of said side sections disposed in a first plane; each of the side sections having a holding member in the medial section of the associated one of the side sections, each

of the holding members is an elongated strip having a strip inner end and a strip outer end ~~formed from, and~~ connected at its same strip inner end with and ~~having a free end~~ extending in the same direction from said connected inner end of its associated one of the said side sections, each of said holding members having a first portion disposed above said first plane, and said side sections and their respective holding members arranged to enable the respective side sections to extend their respective outer end for operative association with the inner face of the collar, and each holding member to extend for engagement with the outer face of the collar on said garment to hold and protect the collar ~~is positioned~~ in position.

44. (original) The collar protector in claim 43, wherein said first plane is curved in the longitudinal direction of said body.

45. (original) The collar protector in claim 43, wherein each of said holding members have a second portion disposed below said first plane.

46. (original) The collar protector in claim 45, wherein said holding members have an S-shape.

47. (original) The collar protector in claim 43, further including a tab extending away from said center section.

48. (currently amended) The collar protector in claim 43, wherein said first plane is arcuate.

49. (canceled)

50. (canceled)

51. (canceled)

52. (canceled)

53. (canceled)

54. (canceled)

55. (canceled)

56. (canceled)

57. (canceled)

Application No.: 09/904,427

Docket No.: DES-L 3.0-009

58. (canceled)

59. (canceled)

60. (canceled)

61. (canceled)